



## **7.0 SUBDIVISION NORTH OF CASPER**



### **7.1 Area Description**

Number of Points: 46

Number of Structures: 70

BLM Ownership: 1,850 acres (8 parcels)

### **7.2 Cole Creek Road**

Five parcels adjacent to Cole Creek Road with 27 homes within half a mile of BLM land. The vegetation is shortgrass prairie and silver sagebrush on sand dunes. Heavy wildlife grazing by antelope and domestic grazing by horses keep the light fuels short.

The southeast area bordered by Gerry Dome Road and the railroad tracks has a moderate component of cheatgrass which has the potential to move quickly up the slope should fire get started. Topography and predominant winds work to protect structures along the river and south of the tracks.



The south central points west of the subdivision are heavily grazed by horses and are predominately shortgrass close to the five structures directly adjacent to the 320-acre allotment. The sagebrush component extends northwest and is broken up by sand dunes. The northeast parcel, north of the subdivision, is predominately shortgrass prairie in the shallow sand dunes. The wide county road and predominate winds work in favor of protecting the residences.

Several large fires started east of this area in the 1990's and grew to several thousand acres in a single burn period. Grass fires within the last year have burned quickly and close to homes. Homeowner prevention and defensible space are the primary tools to prevent property loss.

### **7.2.1 Management Recommendation.**

1. *Livestock grazing.* Continue seasonal grazing to keep light flashy fuels down.
2. *Landowner education and outreach.* Hold public meetings emphasizing the fire potential in the wildland urban interface. Provide site-specific recommendations to homeowners to create defensible space around their structures. Encourage a 100 foot buffer vegetation reduction program to keep fuel height low, 6 inches or less, around home sites. Use existing literature and an ad campaign to raise awareness.
3. *Cheatgrass management.* Utilize an herbicide spray program to reduce existing cheatgrass populations in the Gerry Dome Road area. Address the issue early, while the situation is manageable.

## **7.3 Robertson Road – River West**

There is a 120 acre block immediately north of the densely populated River West Subdivision comprised of shortgrass with a light component of shrub. The irrigation canal traverses the area north-south joining an intermittent drainage.



### **7.3.1 Management Recommendation**

Maintain a 50-foot vegetation reduction buffer on the west and north of the subdivision.  
Involve homeowners in a public education fire prevention demonstration.

## **7.4 Twenty Mile Hill**

The area is 800 acres directly north of the Antelope Hills rural subdivision. The area is heavily grazed by sheep, which has left little fine fuel. The current grazing pattern is keeping fuels to a minimum.

## **7.5 Ormsby Road**

There are 120 acres of lightly grazed shortgrass prairie. A significant cheatgrass component is present. There are 20 to 30 rural residences northeast of the unit.

### **7.5.1 Management Recommendation**

Manage cheatgrass with a combination of herbicide and early season grazing.

## **7.6 Subdivision North of Casper Hazard Assessment Rating**

<u>Total Rating Score</u>	<u>Hazard Level</u>	<u>Amount (%)</u>
1-14	Low	0
15-21	Moderate	98
21-28	High	2
29-35	Extreme	0